

commitment to honoring Raoul Wallenberg has been an inspiration to all throughout the world who honor this great Swedish humanitarian. Jan is the founder and president of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of Chicago, an organization that is dedicated to humanitarian education. Mr. Muller is the founding president and managing director of the NordicCenter, dedicated to enhancing Scandinavian cultural arts and business in North America.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Jan Muller and the City Council of Chicago for this outstanding and appropriate tribute to Raoul Wallenberg.

TAIWAN ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China [ROC]. In Taiwan, October 10 is known as National Day and is a day of celebration and remembrance. I think it is important my colleagues and I take a moment to send our congratulations to the 21 million people on Taiwan for promoting market-orientated solutions to their economy and developing a strong participatory democracy.

Mr. Speaker, three decades ago Taiwan was an underdeveloped nation. During the past 30 years, the people on Taiwan have worked diligently, saved much, and invested wisely. Today, the ROC is the United States' sixth largest trading partner and enjoys a standard of living which approaches the United States. Ten years ago, the ROC also began a political transformation to democracy beginning with legislative elections. These reforms culminated with the popular, direct election of Li Teng-hui as Taiwan's President.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has always shown that it can overcome adversity and achieve success. Taiwan proved that again earlier this year when the People's Republic of China [PRC] attempted to interfere in Taiwan's presidential elections by staging military maneuvers in the Taiwan straits. The people of Taiwan, however, did not permit the PRC to tamper with this exercise of their democratic rights. The strength and perseverance of the people on Taiwan is a lesson for all the world. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing the ROC continued success.

FASCIST AND COMMUNIST ERA CONFISCATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution that takes up the difficult, complex, and challenging issue of property claims arising from Fascist and Communist era confiscations. Joining me as original cosponsors are Representatives PORTER, WOLF, FUNDERBURK, SALMON, HOYER, MARKEY, and CARDIN and we welcome others who would want to cosponsor the measure. The resolution brings focus to points long

raised by Americans who have unresolved property claims and particular issues which were the subject of a hearing on property claims in Central and Eastern Europe held in July by the Helsinki Commission, which I chair.

In convening that hearing, Mr. Speaker, the Helsinki Commission sought to address two specific questions. First, as Central and East European countries privatize and, in some cases, make restitution of, or compensation for, property that had been wrongly confiscated in the past, are the interests of American citizens being adequately protected?

Second, we sought to examine the situation of Holocaust survivors in Central and Eastern Europe. While survivors in the West and in Israel were, in general, able to receive some compensation—primarily from Germany—at the end of World War II, survivors in the East found themselves twice victimized: first by the Nazis, and then by Communist regimes which prevented them from pursuing compensation claims and often prevented them from regaining lands expropriated by the Nazis. Our second question, therefore, was this: Can compensation now be made available to these survivors—in time to help them live their remaining days in dignity?

The Commission received expert testimony from two individuals who lead our Government's efforts in this area: Stuart E. Eizenstat, Undersecretary of Commerce and Special Envoy for Property Claims in Central and Eastern Europe, and Delissa A. Ridgway, Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Mr. Speaker, our witnesses' testimony, augmented by significant information provided by nongovernmental sources, provided clear answers to our questions. While some progress has been made in every country in Central and East Europe, more progress is needed. Our resolution seeks to send that message to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and, in particular, calls for the urgent return of property formerly belonging to Jewish communities as a means of redressing the especially compelling problems of aging and often destitute survivors of the Holocaust.

Also, in some countries, the rights of Americans are clearly not being adequately protected. I understand, of course, that property restitution or compensation is a very complex subject, and I commend those countries that have sought to address it and sought to correct the past wrongs of Fascist and Communist regimes. But those efforts will fall far short of their mark if they perpetuate a new form of discrimination—discrimination against individuals who dared flee communism and sought refuge here in the United States. Accordingly, this resolution calls for countries to remove from their books restrictions which require claimants seeking compensation or restitution to have the citizenship of, or residency in, the country from which they seek compensation or restitution.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this resolution would be incomplete if it did not also address the related problem of those financial institutions, notably Swiss banks, which are known to have converted for their own use, financial assets rightly belonging to Holocaust victims. The measure I introduce today calls on such financial institutions to restore this property to its rightful owners. A resolution of this inexcusable wrong is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND: CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to St. Joseph's School for the Blind, an institution devoted to educating individuals with blindness and visual impairments for more than a century. The school's services and facilities have done much to bring a sense of hope and accomplishment to many special students in New Jersey. On October 7, 1996, the St. Joseph's School for the Blind will hold a dedication ceremony celebrating the opening of their new residence facility.

As the only school for the blind in the State of New Jersey, St. Joseph's continues to make a difference in the lives of many students in need of services not available in standard academic institutions. The school has become more than a learning institution for these special students, it has become a home, a place where caring individuals provide an opportunity for students to reach their fullest potential in life.

The opening of the new residence facility and the services that it will provide are important to the progress of this institution as we approach a new millennium. This new facility allows the school to offer not only a residential and functional academic education, but also the opportunity to master activities for everyday life. These services aim to help the students become fully integrated members of their communities following their graduation from the school.

I would like to commend the efforts and contributions of the city of Jersey City, the County of Hudson, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their support has helped bring this new facility to fruition.

It is an honor to recognize the unique contributions of this outstanding learning institution. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring St. Joseph's School for the Blind and all that it has done to keep the dreams of so many children alive.

THE HEALTH CARE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. taxpayer is the single largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spending \$33 billion—in 1994 alone—for biomedical and related health research. Yet the taxpayer is not getting a fair return on their investment—paying twice for health care inventions, first as taxpayers and second as consumers.